

Mystery Tokens

Part 5

Ron Benice

Here is the fifth group of tokens whose historical information has eluded me. Readers of *Alaskan Token Collector* and *Polar Numismatist* are challenged to come up with information about the owners or businesses named on the tokens listed below.

ATC&PN readers were stumped by the tokens in Part 4. Hopefully, you'll do better with the new challenges:

Ketchikan

Dad's Place Not only is information missing, but these tokens may not have survived. A 24mm die appeared on the market in 1985, so presumably tokens had been struck long ago.

The Igloo An unlikely structure in Ketchikan. But several of these tokens, good for 10¢ in trade are in collectors' hands. Can anybody find out what went on in the igloo? Or when?

Ketchikan Bowling Alley At least we know what went on in this establishment, but somebody in Ketchikan ought to be able to tell us when this business operated.

T. N. Kushi These are common tokens that everyone agrees are from Ketchikan. It has been alleged that this was a gambling establishment on Mission Street, which could explain why he wasn't in any of the telephone or business directories. Can anyone confirm this and put a date on their use?



Pastime Cigar Store This maverick has been widely accepted as being from Ketchikan, but I haven't found any supporting evidence.

Quality Bakery Somewhere in an old Ketchikan newspaper there should be an advertisement for this place that will enable us to date the token and maybe also find an owner's name.



continued on page 46

EDITORIAL

Our thanks once again to Ron Benice for his continuing series **"Mystery Tokens"**. I was surprised to see the Quality Bakery from Ketchikan in this month's listing. One would think that with full city and territory on the token that there would be some other evidences of the business's existence.

This instalment of **"Mystery Tokens"** let me rerun an illustration of a fragmented token. The Arcade Cigar Store was first shown in ATC&PN in February of 1982. It is unfortunate, but I have lost track of the owner, so this piece probably ended up in the trash some where in the lower 48.

Ron Greene of Victoria, BC passed through Fairbanks recently. He was on the tour that gets into Fairbanks at 5PM and is gone by 7AM the next morning. We spent a pleasant evening talking tokens, and I hope that I provided him with at least a couple bits of information that was new. Ron's primary interest is BC tokens and bank history. He has written token articles that were the result of his researches into British Columbia history. Ron's contributions to ATC&PN have been primarily relating to currency and banking, his most recent about the explosion at the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Skagway in this past January's issue.

Kurtis Hawk found an item of interest, and that can be found on page 49. A bit more research is needed on this one.

Be sure to see the Cordova Masonic medal, also on page 49! It's a gem.

Editor - Dick Hanscom

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| United States - | \$15 per year |
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| Elsewhere - | \$35 per year |

Collector's Advertising Rates:

1 page - \$15 1/2 page - \$8 1/4 page - \$5

1/8 page (business card size) - \$15 for 5 issues

Classified ads: 20 cents per line.

Commercial advertisers: write for rates

PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Cordova , Rosswog, B-34b | 157.50 |
| Cordova , Windsor, B-41c | OB150.00 |
| Fairbanks , Masonic, B-33b | 249.99OB |
| Hawk Inlet , PE Harris, 25¢, B-1c | OB295.00NB |
| Seward , Northern, B-8bIII | 38.00 |
| Valdez , I&B, B-9a | OB99.00 |
| Valdez , Northern B-15a | 68.00 |

OB = Opening Bid

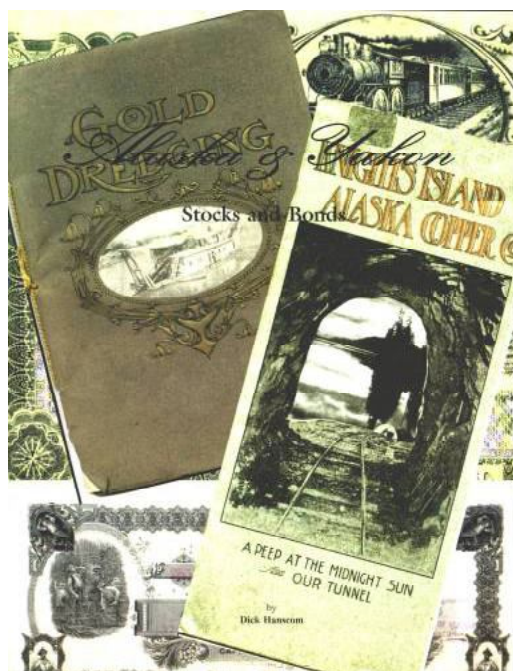
NB = No Bid

RNM = Reserve Not Met

R = Reserve

ALASKA & YUKON

STOCKS AND BONDS



Our book *Alaska & Yukon Stocks and Bonds* is in stock and ready for immediate shipment.

The book is 344 pages with over 700 listings and over 500 photos. It is fully indexed, with two different indexes. Appendixes include listings of incorporated companies known to have done business in Alaska, but not represented in the listings.

The price is \$35 postpaid via bookrate. The book can be shipped via priority mail for an additional \$8. Please send orders to Alaska Rare Coins, P.O. Box 72832, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707.

Latouche

Board of Trade Undoubtedly a saloon in this abandoned town's early days. But it would be nice to pin down an owner and a date.

Seattle Bar I conjectured that this place opened around 1907 when the Seattle-Alaska Copper Company mined in the area. Can you verify it?

Mc Grath

Gus Gullikson These do turn up in Alaska. An early owner of this token claimed it belonged in McGrath. It has no place name on it and I can't find a trace of Gus.

H. A. Hummel This token has never turned up. Just a 27mm die that says McGrath. Hummel hasn't turned up in any directories either.

Naknek

American Packing Ownership changed frequently in this village. The company was called Pacific American and Alaska Packers over the years but I never found it called American Packing. The attribution of these mavericks was made by Kaye Dethridge, perhaps from information on a cover of a coupon book.

Nenana

Smoke House Can anyone put a date or owner on these cardboard disks?

Olnes

Arcade Cigar Store Not only is information about this business fragmentary, but all known specimens of this cardboard token are fragments. (illustration from the February 1982 issue of ATC&PN).

Ouzinkie

Frank's Place We need a last name for Frank. Then we may be able to find what sort of a place this was.



To be continued ...

MYSTERY TOKENS FOR SALE

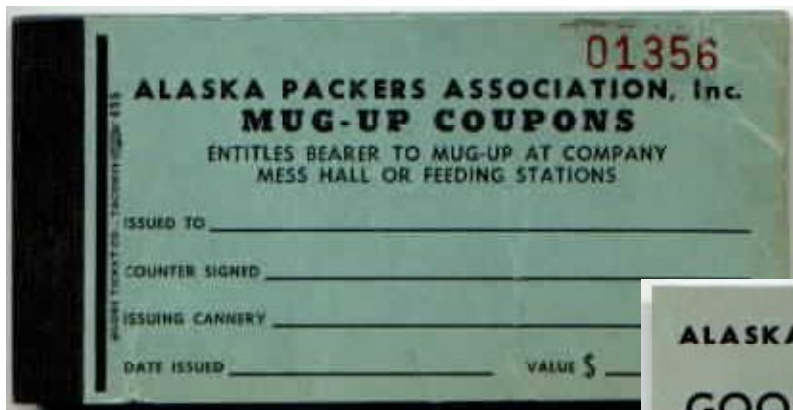
KETCHIKAN

T.N. Kushi, 5¢ I/T, B-27a, \$20.00; 25¢ I/T, B-27b, \$20.00.

Pastime Cigar Store, 5, 10 and 25¢ I/T, B-40 a-c, \$30.00; 5¢ I/T, B-40a \$10.00; 25¢ I/T, B-40c \$10.00.

Quality Bakery, 1 small loaf, B-48a, \$30.00.

ALASKA PACKERS ASSOCIATION

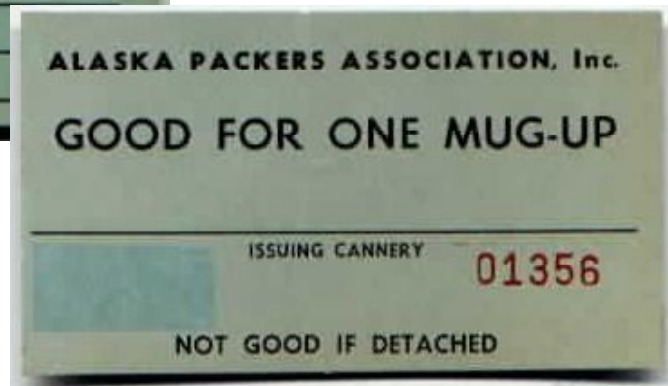


meal coupons shown below. It is dated 6-22-68, making this booklet quite late. The booklet was issued to the Arctic Tern (presumably a fishing vessel). It was countersigned by Dick S???. The issuing cannery is "LB" (or LD).

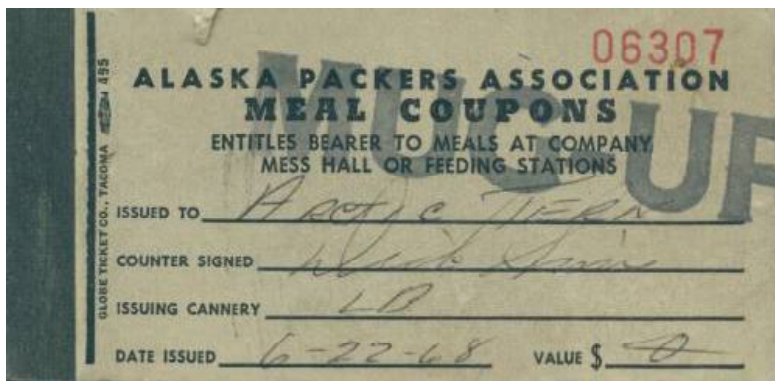
What we find interesting is that the cover, and each

We featured this top "mug up" coupon booklet in our September 2001 issue. At the time, the term "mug up" was unknown. In the next issue, "mug up" was found to mean a drink and meal.

Candy Waugaman recently acquired the Alaska Packers Association booklet of



meal coupon is stamped "Mug Up."



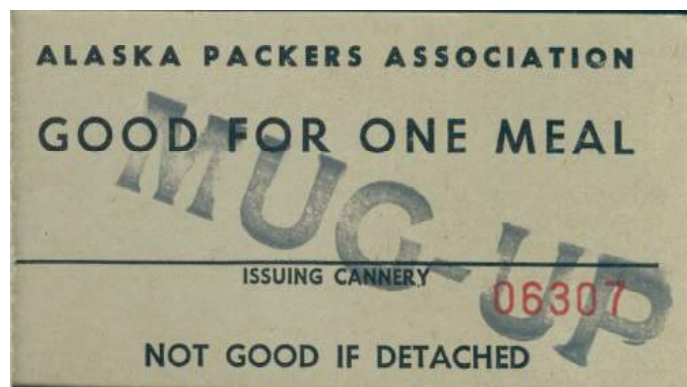
This new booklet measures 101mm by 50mm. The meal coupons measure 89mm by 50mm. It is a printed in black on tan cardstock. Some of the internal coupons are a blue-green. While the outer coupons may have faded from their original color, we do not believe they were all the same, as we can see the color difference on the edge of the booklet.

SANTA CLAUSE HOUSE ELONGATED CENTS



These just appeared on eBay. Interesting in that we had not seen them before! The top one has a front view of Santa Claus House, the bottom left has Santa Claus and the North Pole, while the bottom right has a reindeer and the North Pole. They were rolled on "shiny" pre-1982 cents.

Santa Claus House in just 12 miles east of Fairbanks in North Pole, Alaska.



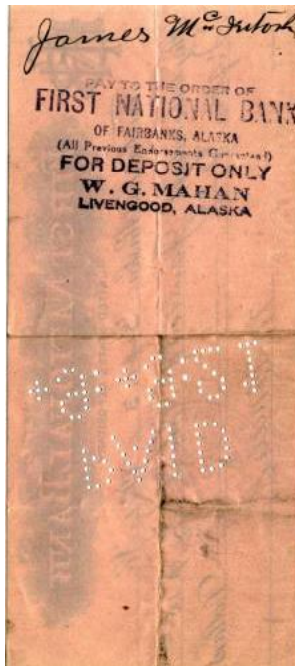
MILLER HOUSE REVISITED

It is amazing what can be found when one cleans up! While rearranging the store, we found the checks shown on this page. We have had these for well over 15 years, but had never noticed the signatures.

The check below bears the signature of M.F. Miller - Frank Miller of Miller House. It is dated 1921, some years before he and Graziella purchased Miller House in 1936.

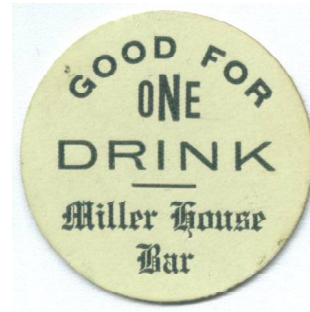


The back of the check is signed James McIntosh of McIntosh and Kubon, a drug retailer in Fairbanks. The back is then endorsed "for deposit only" by W. G. Mahan of Livengood, formerly of the firm Mahan & Gillis (listed under Brooks, B-3a).



Another check, signed by Graziella dated 1927 was also found, and this is shown below.

The Millers purchased Miller House in 1936. Prior to that, Frank was a deputy Marshall in Nulato. For more detailed information about Miller House, see the December 1980 issue of ATC&PN.



MILLER HOUSE MEMORABILIA

We can offer the drink token illustrated above for \$12.

We only have one pair of the checks signed by Frank and Graziella and offer the pair for \$10.

Please include an additional \$3 per order for postage and handling.

10 YEARS OF STATEHOOD



I don't recall seeing these before. Rolled on cent through half dollar, circa 1969. (eBay).

IRIDIUM MEDAL

Kurtis Hawk discovered the following article from Coin World, July 19, 1967:



“Ten medals, which in terms of metal content are the most valuable medals ever struck at the U.S. Mint, have been released to mark the Alaska Purchase centennial. Struck in the exotic metal, iridium, they will be offered for sale at \$1,000 each. (ed. note: average price for iridium in 1967 was \$188 per ounce).

“Spokesman for the Alaska Centennial Commission have reported that profits from the sale of these 10 iridium medals will be used to create a Walt Disney Memorial scholarship for a talented Alaska artist at the California Institute of the Arts.

“The iridium medals bring to four the number of metals in which the Alaska Purchase centennial medal was struck. One hundred platinum pieces, in matched, numbered sets, with silver and bronze specimens, were offered first to Alaska residents, at \$500 each.

“The total numbered silver medals produced is 2,500; unnumbered, 7,500. These are offered individually, at \$15 for the numbered and \$10 for the unnumbered pieces. The bronze medals are unlimited in number and may be ordered for \$2.

“Sets may be ordered from the Alaska Centennial Commission, P.O. Box 2340, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.”

Your editor has checked Mint Reports from fiscal years 1967, 1968 and 1969, and find no mention of the Purchase Centennial medals struck by the U.S. Mint. Does anyone have a Mint Report from 1966??

AND YET ANOTHER ELONGATED!



This is the month for elongateds on eBay!

CORDOVA MASONIC

We regret to say that we do not remember the source for this item.

In blue across the top bar is “Mt. McKinley No. 183. Also in blue, on the second bar are the dates 1910 and 1913. The “G” hanging from the top bar is also enameled blue.

There is engraving on the back on all sections. The engraving on the top bar is behind the pin, and cannot be read.

“Cordova Alaska” is on the second bar.

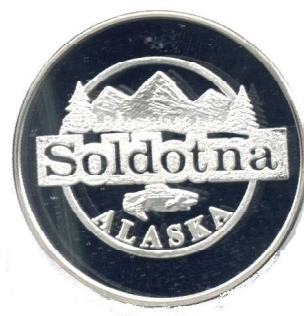
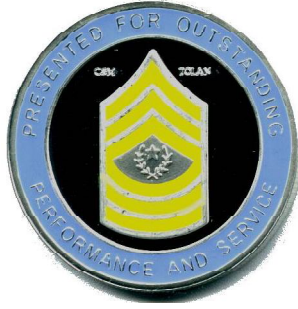
“Presented As a token of respect to Cassius M. Frazier, Past Master, 1910-1913, By his Brethren” is on the bottom shield. The shield is also stamped “14K” at the bottom.

My notes are sketchy at best. They indicate that he was an attorney and arrived in Fairbanks or Chena in 1905. He was later the Cordova City Attorney. He had three daughters, and left Alaska in 1914. After leaving Alaska, he may have been Lt. Governor in Arizona.

Size of the medal was not recorded.



FOR THE RECORD



ALASKA: Alaska Army National Guard, 1st Battalion 297 Infantry (Scouts), Nome, Alakanuk, Fairbanks, Kotzebue, YUH YEK, Guardians of the North. Presented for Outstanding Performance and Services, CSM Tolan. Light blue enamel around the rims, yellow stripes in center. Presumably 1 oz. silver.

SOLDOTNA: One ounce silver medal using the Sport Fishing 1997 die from the Alaska Mint.



(MURPHY DOME): NCO Open Mess, 744th ACW SQD, Good for 5¢ in trade, about quarter size. eBay, OB24.99NB.



ALASKA: HS(BP)E, President's Award. We energize the Future; Teamwork, Opportunity, Success; State of Alaska, Amoco, Arco, Nana, Doyon, Ciri, Unocal, Exxon/ BP. Gold relief, one ounce silver by the Alaska Mint.



PALMER: Masonic Penny, listed, not illustrated. 32mm, bronze or copper.



ALASKA: Performance Excellence, A Force for Good. Gold relief, one ounce silver. Previously reported one ounce silver.



PALMER: Chace Lounge, 1983, 1 Well Drink. Brass, 32mm. 1985 previously reported.

ALASKA: Eagle design by the Evergreen Mint, 1 oz. silver.



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